

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JOHN FINNEY PAGE NINE BYLINER,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, NYTIMES, HEADLINED "SOVIET ARMS
DATA RAISE SUSPICIONS."

2. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY THEY BELIVE THAT
RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS RAISE QUESTIONS WHETHER MOSCOW IS
CAMOUFLAGING SOME OF ITS STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAMS IN
VIOLATION OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ON
OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR ARMS.

3. THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO CHARGE THAT THE SOVIET UNION
IS VIOLATING THE "OPEN SKY" PROVISION OF THE AGREEMENT,
WHICH PLACED A FIVE-YEAR LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS THE TWO NATIONS MAY DEPLOY.

4. BUT THE OFFICIALS CONTEND THAT CERTAIN "AMBIGUITIES"
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IN RECONNAISSANCE INFORMATION HAVE RESULTED IN QUESTIONS

ABOUT WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS DELIBERATELY CONCEALING SOME OF ITS DEPLOYMENTS OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

5. THE 1972 AGREEMENT SPECIFIES IN ITS "OPEN-SKY" PROVISION THAT NEITHER SIDE WILL "USE DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT MEASURES WHICH IMPEDE VERIFICATION" OF COMPLIANCE. THE

PURPOSE OF THE PROVISION WAS TO PERMIT VERIFICATION BY RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES.

6. OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE CONCEALMENT ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION, WHICH WAS CREATED TO MONITOR THE CARRYING OUT OF THE AGREEMENT, JUST AS THE UNITED STATES ALREADY HAS RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION WAS BUILDING ADDITIONAL MISSILE SILOS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE AGREEMENT. OFFICIALS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO RAISE THE CONCEALMENT ISSUE SINCE THE SUSPICIONS "CRYSTALIZED" ONLY IN THE LAST MONTH OR SO.

7. THE FIRST OFFICIAL SUGGESTION THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE VIOLATING THE "OPEN SKY" PROVISION OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT CAME IN A SPEECH LAST THURSDAY BY SENATOR JAMES L. BUCKLEY, CONSERVATIVE-REPUBLIC OF NEW YORK. ADDRESSING THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB IN NEW YORK CITY, THE SENATOR SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY "KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT" THAT UNITED STATES "INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE ACQUIRING MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT WILL SUPPORT THE CHARGE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE UTILIZING NEW MEANS OF CONCEALMENT TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR UNITED STATES NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION TO MONITOR SOVIET COMPLIANCE" WITH THE ACCORDS ON STRATEGIC ARMS.

8. ACCORDING TO BUCKLEY ASSOCIATES, THE SENATOR DISCUSSED HIS SPEECH BY TELEPHONE WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER AFTER HE HAD DELIVERED IT AND WAS TOLD THAT EVERYTHING HE SAID WAS TRUE AND THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD "BACK HIM UP ON IT."

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9. EARLIER THAT SAME DAY, BEFORE MR. BUCKLEY ADDRESSED THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DENIED ONE CHARGE CONTAINED IN HIS SPEECH. THE CHARGE, WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATING IN AVIATION TRADE MAGAZINES, WAS THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL SILOS FOR INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES.

10. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, HAS REPEATEDLY DECLINED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION WAS CONCEALING OR CAMOUFLAGING ANY OF ITS WEAPONS PROGRAMS. THE EFFECT, OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY, WAS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SENATOR BUCKLEY'S CHARGE.

11. MAJ. GEN. WINANT L. SIDLE, A PENTAGON SPOKESMAN, MOVED SLIGHTLY OFF THE "NO COMMENT" POSITION TODAY BY

STATING "WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN VIOLATING" THE AGREEMENT. BUT OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT MEANT TO RULE OUT SUSPICIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE CONCEALING SOME OF ITS WEAPONS PROGRAMS.

12. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, HAS DECLINED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCEALING OR CAMOUFLAGING ANY OF ITS WEAPONS PROGRAMS - A POSITION REPEATED YESTERDAY BY A SPOKESMAN AT THE DAILY PENTAGON NEWS BRIEFING. THE EFFECT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED, WAS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SENATOR BUCKLEY'S CHARGE.

13. ONE APPARENT ACT OF CONCEALMENT DESCRIBED BY BOTH PENTAGON OFFICIALS AND BUCKLEY AIDES WAS A RECENT PLACEMENT OF CANVAS COVERS OVER CONSTRUCTION WAYS AT A SHIPYARD NEAR MURMANSK WHERE NUCLEAR-POWERED MISSILE-CARRYING SUBMARINES ARE CONSTRUCTED. AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO A BUCKLEY AIDE, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DETERMINE FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS HOW MANY YANKEE AND DELTA CLASS SUBMARINES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY THE SOVIET UNION.

14. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO BUCKLEY AIDES, THERE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION, THROUGH VARIOUS COUNTERMEASURES, IS ATTEMPTING TO FRUSTRATE ELECTRONIC METHODS USED BY THE UNITED STATES. ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN MONITORING SOVIET MISSILE PROGRAMS DURING THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE WHILE PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE THROUGH RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES IS USED TO KEEP TRACK OF THE MISSILES ONCE DEPLOYED.
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